

Will Graham

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January 24, 1990

Dear Ben L. and Fern,

I am just delighted that you should write me. I do indeed remember you. Also, the very pleasant time we had in conversation at the motel when Fern shared with us the way she came to know our Lord.

Evidently, from your letter's cautious opening remark, you have no idea of the impact our meeting in Alvarado was to me. Meeting and talking with your mother is one of the precious moments of my life. I am so grateful that God allowed that to happen. I can still hardly believe it happened. That I should be privileged to have one of my Father's students tell me of him is pure grace. And not only that, she was the wife of "Leslie, the tall Graham's" wife. Thank you for the information. I commend you all for doing the right thing in the way you cared for your mother. I would like to know who, and where the other two children are.

With some reluctance, I must tell you that I can not be as helpful to you as I would like. Of all the offspring of J. Monroe Graham, I am nearly the youngest and as such have the vaguest memory of things seen and talked. Only Newton's daughter Fern, (That name sounds familiar, doesn't it.) who is only a year or two younger than I, and W. Smith Grahams's James and Jo Betsy are younger than I. Jo Betsy is, to the best of my memory, the youngest and only about five years younger than I.

To compound this, WWII had a devastating effect on communication between family members. Nobody lived near anybody any more. I wonder after a couple of sentences like that if you or Fern are English teachers. You can bet Wm. Aaron did not teach me to talk like that.

Now, as for the "Will" Grahams:

#1. My father, William Aaron GRAHAM, was never, to my knowledge, called "Will" nor "William" by any of the Graham family. He was "Aaron".

#2. There were two boys in the Monroe Graham family named William. The other was William Smith GRAHAM. So far As I know, "Smith" was never called by any other name than "Smith".

Looking back, sometimes things look funny. At the early age I wondered a bit, but never saw the humor of it. The Grahams called "William Aaron" simply 'Aaron'. My Mother was a Burleson. My Mother and her family always called father 'Will'. The Burlesons never, well almost never, called Mary Etta either 'Mary', 'Etta', or 'Mary Etta'. To them, she was 'Molly, or Mollie'. I never could tell from the pronunciation how it should be spelled. I guess I should write it 'Molly'. That's the way I like it.

When we went to the Burlesons, we heard 'Will' and 'Molly'. When went to the Grahams, we heard 'Aaron' and 'Mary'. Even then kids didn't like what their parents called them.

Father liked the shortest possible names for boys. He also had an aversion to 'Junior'. So, I was 'Will', but not 'William'.

called "Will" by the people "Molly" by my Mother.
and I left home

My only brother, 'Burleson', (no sisters), has done some serious genealogy of the Grahams, Flemings, Burlesons and the Popes. He has done quite a bit of creditable searching.

I am going to take the liberty of sending a copy of your letter to him, along with a copy of this letter. I am certain he can be of much greater help than I.

My brother's address:

Burleson Graham
452 North Jackson
La Grange TX 78945

409 - 968-3539

Our kindest best wishes,


Will and Evelyn